

On 15 September 24 people from Hoekwil and Touwsranten, and members of the SAPS came together to continue a dialogue about how we can improve safety in our community.

The participants represented the diversity of Hoekwil and Touwsranten, and were invited because they have a shared interest in building a safe and prosperous community.

The meeting was facilitated by Chandré Gould from the Institute for Security Studies and Morné Heunis from the SAPS, Eden cluster. SAPS representatives included the Wilderness sector commander, the George station commander, the Commander of Visible Policing in George, the head of detectives in George, and the social crime prevention official for George who is responsible for working with victims of domestic violence and other vulnerable groups.

This meeting drew on the methods of the national Violence Prevention Forum: www.violence-prevention.org

This was the second meeting to work towards understanding what makes people in Hoekwil and Touwsranten feel unsafe, and what we can do about it.

Meeting Objectives

1

Build a strong group who know and trust each other and who are committed to working towards a safer community of Hoekwil/Touwsranten

2

Create the basis for hope and belief in our ability to create a prosperous community

3

To get updates on what has been done, what has been challenging and what opportunities exist

4

To re-visit what makes us safe and unsafe

5

Arrive at a common understanding of our challenges as a community

6

Identify the next steps forward

Community Safety Dialogue

These are some of the issues we discussed and what we agreed



Re-visiting what makes us feel unsafe?

What are the urgent things to work on now?

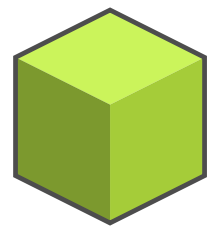
Principles for working as a community

Updates since our last meeting

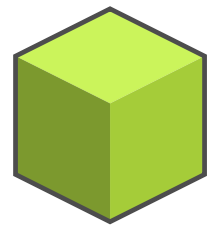
Taking the next steps

Peter Block's Principles

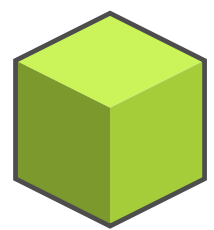
The meeting discussed these principles that will guide how we work together in the coming months



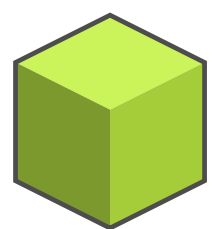
We all come to the process as leaders



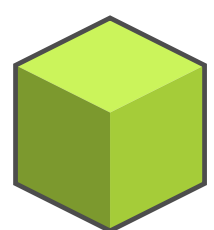
We accept that we have what we need to make things better through our own best thinking, knowledge and wisdom which is already present in the room



We accept that by omission or commission we contribute to that which we identify as challenges

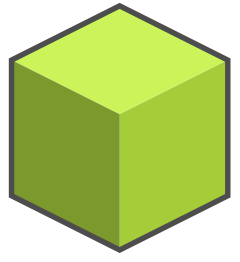


We accept that we make the path by walking it and that we can co-create a future that we desire

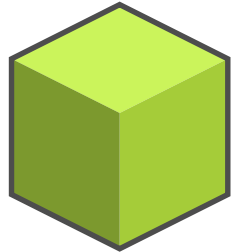


We look for the next, elegant, minimum step forward

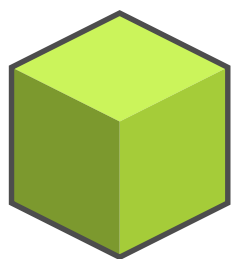
Beginnels vir gemeenskap bou



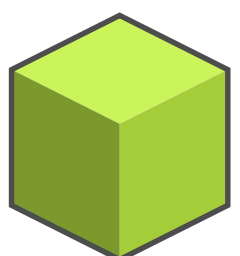
Almal van ons hier is leiers



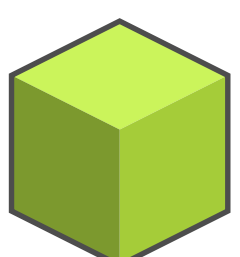
Ons beseef en aanvaar dat ons beskik oor wat nodig is om 'n verskil te maak, deur ons eie beste denke, kennis en wysheid te gebruik. Ons beskik reeds oor al hierdie eienskappe



Ons aanvaar dat deur dit wat ons doen, of nie doen nie, beïnvloed ons die dinge wat ons as uitdagings beskou



Ons aanvaar dat ons self ons roete kan bepaal deur dit te stap, en dat ons saam 'n toekoms kan skep wat ons self kan kies



Ons soek na die mees sinvolle weg vorentoe

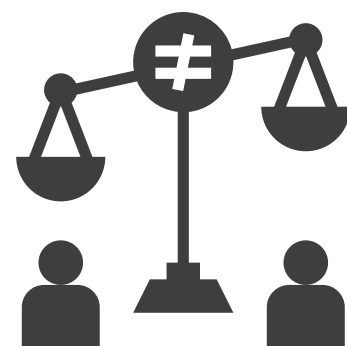
Re-Visiting what makes us feel unsafe?

Strangers (people we don't know)



Drug abusers and their behaviour under the influence

People who think that they are better than others

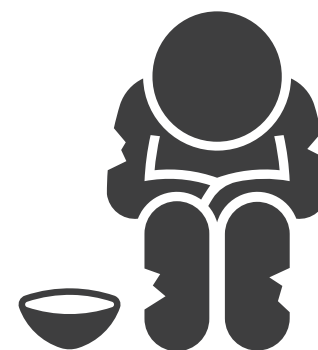


Inequality

Disconnectedness

Visible security measures and high walls

Unemployment and the lack of opportunities



Abuse and seeing abused children



Neglected Children

Relationships with the Police -
Immigrants from other African countries feel unprotected

Disrespect for life

Judgement about people based on assumptions

Hopelessness

Updates since the last meeting



Updates from SAPS

- The neighbourhood watch is moving forward. They are almost ready for registration
- There was one case of GBV since our last meeting - and the perpetrator was arrested and is awaiting trial
- There were three arrests of people who were selling drugs in Touwsrante
- A SAPS member has been visiting victims of domestic violence in Kleinkranz and Wilderness Heights to support them
- The police invited everyone to let them know if there are old people living alone, or who are neglected and in trouble, so that they can visit them and arrange support

Anyone (even if they are here as illegal immigrants) is welcome to report cases of domestic violence to the police, and it will be followed up

Anyone who is a victim can apply for a protection order



Updates from group



Many people shared news about the community safety dialogue with others. People are excited about the dialogue and want to be involved

Some people made a point of greeting everyone they met and introducing themselves - this made people feel more friendly towards each other

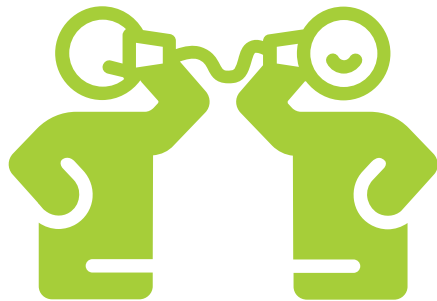
The Hoekwil humane society raised R25 000 to support pets in Touwsrante, and have helped 227 dog owners to have their dogs sterilized. People from Hoekwil and Touwsrante are being helped by the PDSA and SPCA

There was networking to share skills, one person has started training a young person in building skills, and two young people are being taught to play the piano

One person spoke with a mother who was drunk and had been shouting at her child. She asked her to care for her child and take her home to safety

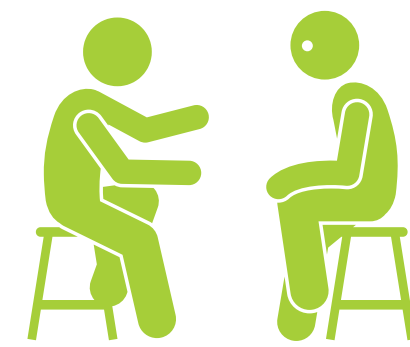
What is the way forward?

More job opportunities



Build relationships

Better communication



Giving people dignity

No racism



Skills development

Groups were formed to develop ideas and work on the following issues:

Neighbourhood Watch

Community skills audit and income generation through a flea market

Support for Addicts (establishing an Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous for Touwsrante and Hoekwil)

Actions to take the next step towards creating a safe community



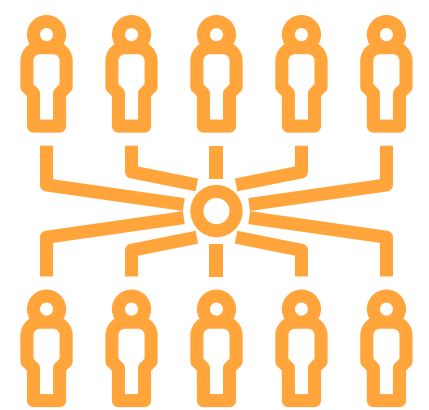
Telling others about this meeting
- get more people involved



Skills audit

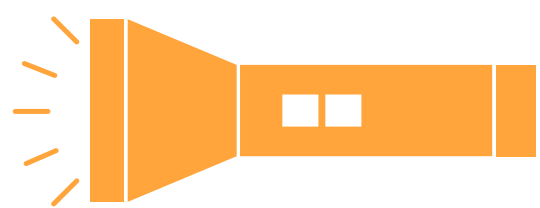
Greet each other
from now on

Actively work on our relationships -
across communities



Think of ways to create jobs and
more opportunities

Meet again!



Get involved in the
Neighbourhood Watches

Build vision

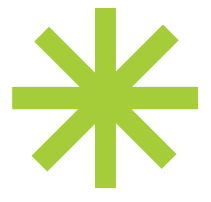
Create support for drug abusers

Get information about crime

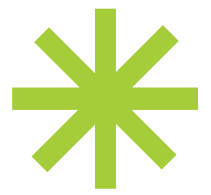


Possible flea market - stimulate the
economy and showcase local talent/skills

Three groups were formed to work on:



A skills audit and market (building on the database and mapping tool on existing skills lists)



Supporting the neighbourhood watch



Substance abuse support

Each group will be meeting to identify next steps and answer these three questions:

1. What problem are we trying to solve with this action?

2. How will this action solve the problem?

3. How will we know if it is working?



How do we want to meet and hold each other accountable?

Willingness

Equality

Feedback

Respect

Trust

Assistance & Persistence

Keep the Movement Going

Getting to know the Roleplayers

Understanding the Issues

Bravery

Courage

Open Minds

Supporting Each Other

Committment

Communication

Open for Uncomfortable Conversations

Having Time-Out when Needed

Fun!

Community Safety Dialogue

